

**CREOSOTE
PARTNERS**

**Legislation 101:
How this process Works**

Agenda

- **State government overview**
- **How a bill becomes a law**
- **Next steps and action items**

So How Does It Work?



Local



County



State



Federal

Let's focus on the state level...

So How Does It Work?



Executive

- **Governor**
- **Departments (Department of Ed)**
- **Boards (Board of Ed)**
- **Implements the law**



Legislative

- **House**
 - **60 members**
- **Senate**
 - **30 members**
- **Writes the laws**



Judicial

- **Municipal**
- **Justice of the Peace**
- **Superior**
- **Appeals**
- **Supreme**
- **Interprets the laws**

Who Makes Up Our Government?

Executive branch

Governor

**Elected
every four
years**

**Many state
elected officials
are charged with
running their
departments only**

**Most statewide offices are controlled by
the Republican party except the Secs. of
State and Education**

**Gov. has sole authority to appoint
members to Board with control over policy**

Who Makes Up Our Government?

Legislative branch

**Absolute majority
required for bills
to pass**

**Elected every 2
years**

30 Districts

**Run by Senate President and Speaker of
the House**

**Republican majority in
House and Senate**

Education Committees

5 Republicans, 3 Democrats in the Senate

8 Republicans, 5 Democrats in the House

So How Does It Work?

Legislative Session

- **Approximately 100 days**
- **Session begins on the 2nd Monday of January & the Governor delivers the State of the State address**
- **Adjourn for the last time “sine die”, or without a day, after passing a budget for the next fiscal year**
- **Special session can be called after sine die**

Important Terms

- **SB & HB**
 - **Senate Bill and House Bill**
 - **Indicates the legislative body that proposed a law**
- **Amendment**
 - **Changes a proposed piece of legislation by striking or inserting text**
- **Floor**
 - **When the entire legislative body meets**
- **Third Read**
 - **After all committee work and amendments are complete & the entire chamber votes on a bill**

Request to Speak (RTS)

- **This system allows citizens and lobbying groups to express opposition, support or neutrality for any bill**
- **RTS can be completed virtually or in person at the capitol once you are registered**
- **We can help you sign up for RTS!**



It all starts with...



a legislator proposing a law.

What's Next?

- **First & Second Reading**
 - Formal readings of the bill
- **The bill is assigned to Committees**



What Happens In Committee

- **Handle specific issues and report to the full body**
- **BUT the Chairman has to schedule your bill for a hearing...**



This is where YOU can use the RTS system to testify in person or weigh in on a bill remotely!



A powerful stop: The Rules Committee

- **Considers each bill**
 - **Checks for constitutional and format issues**
- **EVERY bill goes through this committee; they hold a lot of power**
- **Then the bill moves to caucus**



Next the Bill Hits the Floor

- **Committee of the Whole or the “COW”**
 - **Last chance for amendments**
- **Third/Final Reading**
 - **Votes are tallied on a large scoreboard**

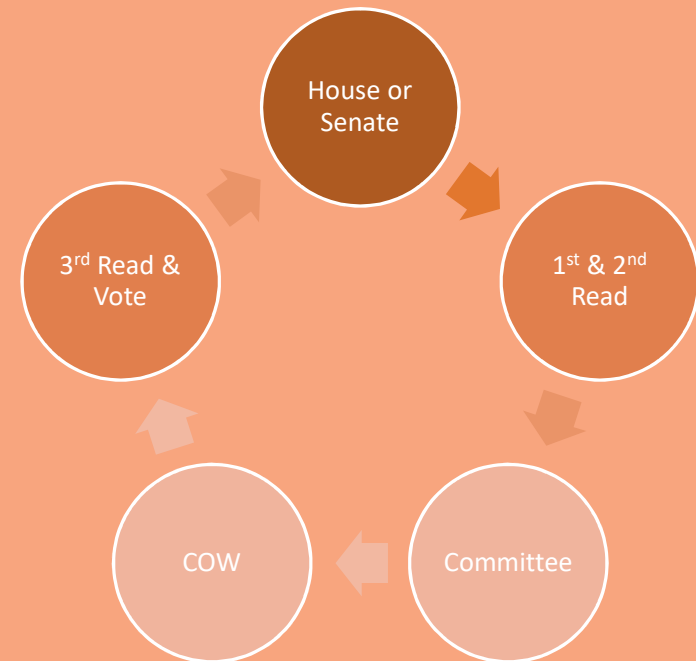


**This is where YOU
email or call your
legislator via our Action
Alerts**



Then We Do It All Again

- **Every bill goes through both legislative bodies**
- **That means even if a bill passes unanimously in the House, it still might never get a hearing in the Senate**



What If There Are Changes?

- **One body accepts the other's changes or...**
- **They go to Conference Committee!**
- **Committee of members from both legislative bodies**
- **Resolves differences between similar measures passed by both houses**

Finally: On To The Governor

- **Sign**

- **Becomes law with Governor's signature**
- **It can pass if the Governor waits long enough without signing**

- **Veto**

- **Supermajority vote can override a veto**

